Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-036
Wednesday
24 February 1988

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Cuba

UN Human Rights Commission Continues Talks

Valladares' Presence Analyzed

FL232223 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Report by Orlando Contreras from Geneva]

[Text] A Cuban representative will address the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva this afternoon but will not be able to exercise the right of rebuttal until Thursday, after item No 10 on the agenda is discussed, according to procedures announced by the Senegalese chairman of the commission yesterday.

Armando Valladares, former terrorist, ex-Cuban, and so-called poet, this morning took the floor to repeat the same rhetorical and blubbering speech. He said he had gone hungry for 8,000 days and suffered systematic beatings, forced labor, and bayonet wounds. This time he did not mention the wheelchair or the paralysis because he has been sufficiently unmasked. In essence, however, he repeated the same false and melodramatic story prepared for him. Observers commented later that Valladares looks very active, agitated, and nervous in the hallways and that he evidently is in good health. The same show [preceding word rendered in English] but with hardly any audience was staged at the Palace of Nations here by four counterrevolutionaries sent from Miami to Geneva. It was another, smaller scale version of the kangaroo court [corte de milagros] that the United States' delegation dragged along last year.

Going on to more substantive things: Norway, GDR, USSR, Cyprus, France, United States—the Valladares soap opera I alluded to—Belgium, Iraq, and Portugal addressed the committee today. In essence, the delegates spoke about the legal system in their respective countries. They condemned torture and other illegal forms of pressure, which was the topic of the discussion. Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri, head of the Cuban delegation, will hold a news conference tomorrow which has aroused great interest here among observers.

During a [word indistinct] offered by the session's spokesman this morning, it was reported that Armando Valladares, head of the U.S. delegation to the Human Rights Commission and, we should remember, a former terrorist, will hold a news conference on Friday concerning the position of his government—the American Government—in connection with Cuba. I repeat, friends, that the sessions continue here in Geneva and it is expected they will go on until 2100 today. The Cuban delegation will speak this afternoon.

Roa Kouri Addresses Commission

FL231959 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Report by Orlando Contreras from Geneva's Palace of Nations on remarks made by Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri]

[Text] Raul Roa Kouri, foreign vice minister of Cuba, said he is very confident the truth will surface at the UN Human Rights Commission as he referred to the continuous U.S. campaign claiming human rights violations in Cuba. He noted: This commission and international public opinion are witnesses of the evil arrogance with which the U.S. Government is trying to accuse Cuba of torture, illegal detentions, and ignoring the rights of those detained.

Roa Kouri, who is heading the Cuban delegation to the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Commission, summed up the history of struggle of the Cuban people, the unity between the people and government, the decision to defend the revolution with arms in hand, and the active and popular democracy which characterizes the social and political life of the country. Can a government that practices torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatments have the popular support, the unlimited trust of the population as the Government of the Republic of Cuba has? Roa Kouri said the answer is obvious and Cuba's case is very clear.

Without mentioning names, he referred to the head of the U.S. delegation, the former Batista policeman, former terrorist and so-called poet, Armando Valladares, who cited Bertolt Brecht this morning. Roa Kouri said those who invoke Brecht can laugh but they are forgetting he had been persecuted by McCarthyism. Roa Kouri addressed the Human Rights Commission some 40 minutes ago.

Document Strikes Blow at U.S.

FL240236 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2007 GMT 23 Feb 88

[By Yolanda Gomez]

[Text] The campaign led by the United States against Cuba at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, today received a serious blow with the presentation of a document by an Italian woman, (Amanda Castello Para), who is the director of the International Association Against Torture. (Castello Para) has visited Cuban prisons.

The representative of the humanitarian organization, which has its headquarters in Milan, participated in a news conference in which an alleged former prisoner of Cuban origin, Ramon Amor, attempted to create confusion by denouncing the so-called physical and psychological torture of his three children who are prisoners in Cuba. They are Marcelo, Marco Ivan, and Maria Alejandra.

What does the document say?

The material was compiled when the International Association Against Torture visited Cuba. It was presented to (Victor Ego Ducrot), PRENSA LATINA's special correspondent in Geneva. The document indicates that Marcelo and Marco Ivan Amor are enrolled in a special program for juvenile delinquents in which they work and study on a collective farm. The two sons are completely free to leave once their normal hours are over. Marcelo and Marco Ivan Amor are located at the (Vaya Grande) open center. The girl, Maria Alejandra Amor, is being detained at the Occidente Women's Prison.

The three detainees admitted they are in good health. They are fulfilling their sentences for contraband and trafficking in foreign currency, which is a crime that is punished throughout the world.

Such grotesque maneuvers as those seen in Geneva can only be conducted by a diabolical person, a Machiavelli who attempts to hide his prisons where black inmates are treated as guinea pigs and submitted to experiments; where revolutionary prisoners, such as George Jackson or Puerto Rican patriot (Pedro Alviso Campos) are submitted to physical and mental torture, assassinated in so-called attempts to flee, or left to die in the [words indistinct] as a slave in the United States.

While the father of the three Amor children, Mr Ramon Amor, attempted to falsify the reality of his children in Cuba, an Italian director presented her proof, which was accumulated in only 10 days from talks in Cuba with Marcelo, Marco Ivan, and Alejandra.

American Indians Accuse U.S.

FL231352 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] American Indians have once again launched before the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva their just and historical malediction which has always been ignored by Washington. The U.S. representative of that ethnic group said at the commission that the U.S. Government will some day be cursed for its discrimination and for expelling the natives from their own land.

Fidel Castro Meets With Ethiopia's Amanuel

FL231327 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Comrade Amanuel Amde Michael, member of the Politburo of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia [WPE] and vice president of the Council of State of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian leader, who is on a friendly and working visit to our country, conveyed to Comrade Fidel a message of fraternal greetings from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE and president of the brother country. The commander in chief underscored the solidarity and brotherly ties uniting the peoples, parties, and governments of Cuba and Ethiopia. He also sent his personal greetings to Comrade Mengistu.

Raul Castro Pays Homage to Soviet Armed Forces

FL232025 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, placed a flower wreath at the foot of the monument to the Soviet internationalist soldier today. This was part of the activities taking place in our country marking the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Soviet Armed Forces.

During the event, homage was paid to all Soviet internationalists who gave their life to the Cuban revolution. Reference was also made to the bond that exists between our two peoples and armies. Aleksandr Kapto, USSR ambassador to Cuba, and Colonel General (Aleksey Zaytsev), main FAR adviser, were present.

A group of Soviet military specialists was decorated with the Internationalist Combatant Medal, second class, acknowledging the solidary and internationalist help given to our Armed Forces, as well as their contribution to the strengthening of our country's defense capabilities. The ceremony ended with a military parade with the participation of FAR soldiers and members of our glorious Territorial Troops Militia.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Mongolia

FL231405 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has seen off a Cuban parliamentary delegation. The representatives are going to Mongolia to participate in a meeting of socialist parliaments which will begin there on Thursday.

Science-Technology Agreement Signed With CSSR

LD18219 Prague CTK in English 1941 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Havana Feb 18 (CTK Correspondent)—An agreement between the Governments of Czechoslovakia and Cuba on scientific-technological cooperation up to the year 1990 was signed here today.

The agreement lays the basis for the further extension of cooperation particularly in the power industry, engineering, geology, electrical engineering, agriculture, health care, the building industry, light industry, etc.

It was signed by Karel Ren, Czechoslovak deputy chairman of the State Commission for Scientific-Technological Development and Investments and by Cuban Academy of Sciences Vice President Ramon Pomes Hernandez.

Karel Ren, who is heading the Czechoslovak delegation on its visit to Cuba, was received today by Cuban Deputy Premier Joel Domenech Benitez, for talks on questions of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the sphere of science and technology.

Karel Ren and Ramon Pomes Hernandez also signed today a protocol on the 18th session of the Czechoslovak-Cuban subcommission for scientific-technological cooperation.

Castro Criticizes Hospital Service Hours

FI232143 [Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1240 GMT on 12 February carries a 10-minute video report on Cuban President Fidel Castro's visit to the Andres Ortiz Teaching Polyclinic in Guanabacoa Municipality on 11 December. The video shows Castro talking to individuals whom the announcer says are hospital workers and officials. Though video quality is good to fair, the surrounding crowd, background noise, and poor audio renders a good deal of the exchange indistinct, particularly what is said by those talking to Castro, who seems to be complaining about hospital hours. At the beginning of the exchange he is heard to remark: "You mean the services are so organized as to compete with work." He asks about the hours and again remarks: "The services are organized precisely to conspire against work." One man demurs, saying the hospital is trying to provide dental services as late as 2200 or 2300.

When someone tells him the experience of those clinics staying open late is that few people go at night, Castro responds: "If I can get some time off from work, why should I go to the clinic at night? Why should I come at night? Here we have a new clinic. No worker can come to this clinic without missing work." Castro later says: "I think everything in Cuba is designed to conspire against work: services and a lot of other things. Everything is organized to conspire against work. The kids are in school in the morning and the workers are at their job. The only people not affected are the homemakers. If I can come here instead of going to work, why should I come here at 2200? I'm better off taking time off in the morning. I might not have to go back the rest of the day. We must study this."

The scene shifts to another room with what looks like exercise equipment. Castro is again surrounded by a group of people. He asks them where they are from, where they went to school, and what their area of study is. On two or three occasions Castro pats young women on the head. The murmur of the crowd continues to make it difficult to follow the exchange. Castro once more asks about the working hours, and one man says the area where they are will be open from 0700 to 2300. Castro states: "I don't know; we conspire against work. We come up with things that clash with work. Then we want to [words indistinct] a study. They clash with school hours if it is a child. We have to think first so we know what we are doing; whether it is the right thing to do, what the advantages and the drawbacks are." Later, Castro says: "Everything we come up with is against work, discipline, and job attendance."

Antigua and Barbuda

Opposition Holds Caucus; Prepares for Elections

FL232040 Bridgetown CANA in English 1724 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, Feb 23, CANA—The opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP) of Antigua and Barbuda, is readying itself for general elections, widely expected well before the government's five-year term expires next year.

UNDP leader Dr. Ivor Heath, a soft-spoken Scottish-trained surgeon, has just led the party into a private caucus at which it focussed on the positions it will take in the elections. The party has now shifted strategy somewhat, putting greater emphasis now on enunciating alternatives to the ruling Labour Party's policies, rather than concentrating on criticising the long-serving Labour government of Prime Minister Vere C. Bird senior. Said Heath: ...If we spend our time discussing the faults of the ALP, we'll have no time to put our own programme forward. So we intend to concentrate on the positive aspects of the UNDP and not on the negative aspects of the ALP at this stage, he added. He acknowledged that the road ahead is tough, but expressed confidence that the electorate understood the aims and policies of the party, and will offer it their support.

Heath said that a high voter turn-out would favour the UNDP, declaring his confidence that there will be no repetition of the 1984 situation when just 52 per cent of the electorate voted, and the ALP won all 16 seats on Antigua.

Heath said that the UNDP's manifesto has already been completed and the party was now simply awaiting the announcement of the election date before starting distribution. But he offered some hints as to the kind of platform the public can expect from the party when electioneering begins in earnest here.

Heath, for example, criticised government policies on tourism and education, accusing the administration of handing the country's all-important tourist industry to foreigners, and claiming there has been a fall in education standards. Heath said that a UNDP government will offer the church a greater say in running the schools in the country in an effort to restore both discipline and the quality of education in the island.

Haiti

Bernard Sansaricq Gives Reasons for Fleeing

FL232354 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] [Announcer] From Miami, U.S.A., where he has been since Saturday night, Bernard Sansaricq, leader of the PPNH [National People's Party of Haiti], informed us that he did not leave Haiti under any safe-conduct given him by the Leslie Manigat government. He said it was his decision to spend some time overseas for security reasons.

Sansaricq said he is not exiled, and it is not his intention to go into exile. He says he is simply waiting for a proper guarantee to come back and live in Haiti, because he is a native Haitian.

[Begin recording] [Sansaricq] As you know, my life was always in danger under the former government, the CNG [National Government Council]. They tried to kill me several times, not just once in Jeremie on 3 August. They tried to kill me on 1 August. There was even an attempt on my life while I was in the embassy, shortly before the 29 November elections, when there were killings and massacres in Haiti. This was kept quiet, I suppose, because the ambassador wanted to avoid a diplomatic incident. He was trying to get me a safe-conduct out of Haiti

I have very important and powerful enemies among the former regime, and I still have enemies among the macoutes, so I thought it would be a good idea to keep a low profile for a certain amount of time and leave the country. So don't think... [changes thought] I do not consider myself an exile at present. I am a patriot. I would like to return home. I love my country and my people, but I think it is a good idea for me to keep a low profile for the time being.

[Reporter] Did you ask to be given a safe-conduct under the Manigat government?

[Sansaricq] I didn't leave under a safe-conduct. I would like to make this very clear to the Haitian people. The new Manigat government did not give Bernard Sansaricq a safe-conduct. There were talks between the government and the president of the Senate and the ambassador. They even asked the Argentine ambassador if I wanted to stay in the country and said I could stay if I wanted to. But the decision reached between myself and the Argentine embassy was that, for the time being—since the same men who were persecuting me, who wanted to see Sansaricq dead, who wanted to kill Sansaricq, are still occupying certain key positions—it would be a good idea for me to keep a low profile for awhile. And that's where we are now.

I used a normal Haitian passport like everyone else when I finally left on Saturday. I did not leave on any safe-conduct. This is something Haitians should be made aware of. The Ministry of Interior was supposed to give me a document which I have not yet received but which the Ministry promised to give the Argentine ambassador this week. He is supposed to get this document to me through the Argentine consul here in Miami. The document says there is no dispute between me and the current Government of Haiti and that I have a right to return to Haiti whenever I wish.

[Reporter] You say you have no quarrel with the current government. Is the government going to promise this on the document and is it also going to solve the problem you have or have had with the military?

[Sansaricq] Well, I think in the mind of the current government, the problem is solved. You know that there are always slipups in Haiti. In Haiti there are always accidents. I would not like to become a slipup or an accident and I think the embassy would not like this either. I think the entire diplomatic corps was consulted by the ambassador and I do not think they would like Sansaricq to become a slipup or an accident.

If they were to attack Sansaricq and he had to defend himself, this would put the new government in a bad position. So I think it was a good idea for me to remove myself from the scene for awhile. Again, what I want—and I have been fighting for this since I was 18 years old and I fought three Duvalierist governments for it—is to remain in Haiti so I can work and participate actively in the political life of my country.

[Reporter] So this means you are waiting for a guarantee before returning to Haiti?

[Sansaricq] I am waiting for a guarantee, and I will let a certain amount of time pass before I return to my country. I must definitely return to my country. I am a native-born Haitian. I think I can further the interests of democracy, further the interests of the Haitian people, and I definitely want to go back home.

[Reporter] For the time being, what do you intend to do in Miami

[Sansaricq] I think we will make certain contacts with the diaspora. We will try to study the situation in Haiti and decide what the PPNH's official position will be in reference to the political future of the Haitian people and of Haiti. [end recording]

[Announcer] We asked Bernard Sansaricq to remind everyone of the circumstances under which he sought asylum in the embassy. He admitted he had entered the Argentine Embassy disguised as a priest. Sansaricq said

the Haitian Army shot at him first and all he did was defend himself and defend himself well. Sansaricq praised the people of the Grande Anse area, who gave him all kinds of help.

[Begin recording] [Sansaricq] Here's what really happened in the Grande Anse area. On 3 August, the men who participated in the crime against the Sansaricq family were to appear before an examining magistrate in the Grande Anse area. I decided to go to the Grande Anse on 1 August and that is the first time they tried to kill me, 2 days before the incident. They fired at me when I was on Tapion hill, and I recognized the person who fired at me. I have already talked about this.

He is a Dominican called Carlos, a hired assassin, a guy who is involved in drugs and all sorts of other things. I even gave the description and license plate number of his vehicle. It was a red Suzuki with a rental car license plate. They shot at me on Tapion hill. I think the bullet holes must still be in my car, at Behrmann Motors. I don't know if they have had time to repair the bullet holes.

That was the first attack. I did not turn back to Port-au-Prince after the attack. I went on to the Grande Anse. I did not go into town when I arrived. I did not make my presence known to the population because I wanted to appear on 3 August before an examining magistrate on the case of the people involved in the crime against my family. This is something I wanted to do very badly. I would like to see justice established in Haiti and I would like to see the criminals who participated in the crime against my family taken to court. I have never asked for vengence; I have asked for justice, and that is the path I took.

So, the Haitian Army raided my house on 3 August. The Army started shooting first. The Army shot one of the men with me in the house. He was hit by some three or four, maybe even more, bullets. They definitely tried to kill me while I was in the house. All I could do was defend myself and try to take to the hills and get back to Port-au-Prince.

While I was in the hills in the Grande Anse, the support I got from the peasants was extraordinary. The population acted as advance and rear guards for me. They fed me. They provided refuge for me. This is something I will never in my life forget.

[Reporter] So, Mr Sansaricq, you came over the hills to Port-au-Prince?

[Sansaricq] I walked practically all the way from Jeremie—where I had left my car, fairly close to Jeremie, a little farther out than Leon—over the hills from the Grand Anse to around Les Cayes. Near Les Cayes, they arranged transportation for me, and from the south I entered Port-au-Prince in a vehicle. I walked so much, had such a rough time in the hills between 3 and approximately 25 August, that at one point my feet swelled and I had so many blisters on them that I spent 3 days in one place unable to walk. [end recording]

MDN Urges Legal Action for Waste Dumping

FL232312 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The political party Mobilization for National Development [MDN] has said they learned with indignation and anguish that the vessel "Khian Sea," from Philadelphia, dumped 4,000 tons of toxic waste near the sea in Gonaives on 21 January 1987, thus endangering the lives of area residents and the entire population of Haiti.

The note continues: This new form of massacre, of genocide, was thought up and carried out with the complicity of certain high-ranking Haitian authorities and the only reaction to it was a timid little communique from the Ministry of Information issued on 18 February 1988. No serious measures have been taken to rid the area of this toxic waste and to protect the population against the poisoning of the atmosphere, water, trees, and animals, says the MDN note.

The MDN says they support the main recommendations made by the Federation of Friends of Nature and they think it is necessary that the appropriate public authorities publish an official report on the waste's degree of toxicity.

Secondly, the contaminated area should be declared off-limits. The population living in that area should be relocated and put in quarantine. Pregnant women should be tested to help prevent the birth of children with physical deformities and other birth defects. The salt marshes in Gonaives should be shut down and fishing should be prohibited in the area. Also, legal action should be initiated against the authorities involved in the traffic of this toxic waste.

That was a note from the MDN's information department.

FADH Issues Communique on Drug Allegations

FL232217 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] High Command has issued a press release. Here is what it says:

The FADH High Command alerts the local press to a series of news reports and unfounded allegations by certain foreign press organs regarding alleged involvement of a high-ranking Haitian Army officer in drug trafficking.

For the edification of the local press and the public in general, the High Command reports that it has received no complaint whatsoever or any dossier from any court in any form whatsoever in its offices regarding Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, FADH, as the foreign press is claiming. If things were otherwise a special investigating committee would have been formed in accordance to FADH regulations to shed light on the matter and take disciplinary measures should the case prove to merit them, said the press release.

Exceeding the limits of the law in cases such as this, these foreign press organs have even dared suggest that Col Jean-Claude Paul might be extradited.

The FADH High Command warns the Haitian press to beware of these kinds of news reports and not to echo them because such reports constitute an unfounded campaign of disparagement and cannot be proven. This press release is signed and was sent to us here at RTNH [Haitian National Radio and Television] by Carl Michel Nicolas, Brigadier General, FADH.

Kodena Expresses Support for Student Demands
FL232259 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Kodena, the Committee for the Defense of the National Interest [Komite Defans Entere Nasyonal], fully supports all the demands being made by Haitian student organizations and by the 16,000 students who did not participate in Dalencourt's baccalaureate exam. Kodena asks all parents and students in the country to wear a red armband or headband on Thursday, 25 February, to express solidarity with the problem of the 16,000 baccalaureate candidates, who are trying to find a way to be allowed to take their test.

Trinidad and Tobago

Antigua, Barbuda Blamed for Import Block
FL231750 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] In Port-of-Spain, a top Trinidadian official has acknowledged his country blocked imports from Antigua and Barbuda. But Industry Minister Ken Gordon blames the Antiguan Government for the situation saying Antigua and Barbuda failed to honor a June 1987 trade and aviation agreement. Mr. Gordon urged the Antiguan Government to honor the agreement. He said he has rejected an invitation by the Antiguan Government to visit St John later this week.

Foreign Secretary on Entry of U.S. Drug Agents

PA231430 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 14 Feb 88 p 4

[Article by Jorge Octavio Ochoa]

[Excerpt] Mazatlan, Sinaloa, 13 Feb—In exclusive statements to EL DIA, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amora said that because of sovereignty, Mexico will not permit "for any reason," U.S. agents entering Mexico to investigate under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking. He added that cooperation, communication, and information agreements already exist to combat this evil.

The secretary also said that for the first time in the discussions of this topic, the U.S. Government has agreed to accept its co-responsibility in the problem after U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese admitted that as long as drug consumption does not decrease and the market for organized crime exists, the fight against drug trafficking cannot be totally effective.

In his explanation, Sepulveda told EL DIA that the amount of capital attributable to drug trafficking increased from $110 billion to $150 billion, something that shows there is a great deal of co-responsibility in the chain of production, distribution, and consumption of drugs.

In a news conference, the foreign secretary later said that in this specific case, Mexico has been, to a great extent, a victim of criminal acts committed in third countries. [passage omitted]

Minister Petricioli Views Foreign Debt Exchange

PA231555 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Gustavo Petricioli, Mexican finance and public credit secretary, has released the topics discussed by Mexican and U.S. financial authorities during the recent meeting between the presidents of the two countries.

Petricioli said the United States is interested in the exchange of the Mexican foreign debt for investment. This plan was previously suspended because of inflation problems.

Petricioli said the plan will be resumed on a selective basis, although sums of money will be limited. The Mexican finance secretary added that Mexico requested the United States give a more favorable treatment to U.S. banks deciding to participate in the exchange of foreign debts for zero-coupon bonds.

Petricioli talked about his meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker. He said they agreed the IMF and the World Bank must have greater participation in the true solution of the foreign debt problem and that the IMF must increase its support for Latin American countries affected by a decrease of foreign revenues under appropriate conditions.

Finally, Petricioli said the Mazatlan meeting set the basis for greater understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States concerning financial and foreign debt problems.

Briefs

New Police Assistant Director

Salvador Peralta, the Judicial Federal Police commander with the best record in the world, was recently promoted to the post of assistant director. Peralta has seized 600 kg of cocaine, 11 tons of marijuana, and 28.5 kg of pure heroin within a 2-year period. The 46-year-old officer, who has been a policeman for 29 years, also arrested approximately 1,030 drug traffickers during the 2 years he worked in Tijuana, Baja California. [Summary] *[Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Feb 88 pp 5a, 33a PA]*

El Salvador

FMLN: U.S. Advisers 'Military Targets'

PA231630 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Interview with Commander Roberto Roca, member of FMLN General Command, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander Roca, the U.S. State Department spokesman, through the official U.S. Government radio station, has admitted that U.S. military advisers with the 6th Brigade garrison in Usulutan used their regulation weapons against FMLN combatants. During the capture of the 4th Brigade in Paraiso, a U.S. adviser was killed in the fighting. There are other cases of the direct combat involvement of U.S. military advisers in El Salvador. What does this mean for the FMLN, for the people's revolutionary war, and for the Americans?

[Roca] It really means the combat participation of U.S. personnel stationed in the country to direct the counterinsurgency war. They are increasing their direct participation in the clashes. For the Salvadoran people, it is evident that the counterinsurgency war imposed on our people by the Americans and the Reagan administration is directly financed and directed through U.S. advisers and CIA agents linked to the intelligence services and linked to the legal war against the trade union movement as well as against all forms of popular organization independent of the regime.

To the extent that the war's theater of operations nears the cities, and to the extent that the enemy's dens and rearguard become a daily site of the war, the U.S. advisers and the U.S. military personnel typically in those sites to advise the Army commanders and to train the troops will increasingly become more directly involved in the military operations. For the Americans, this will obviously mean that their military personnel will return to the United States wounded, disabled, or in caskets.

For the FMLN, the Americans have always been the real authors of this war. We have always maintained that this war [12-second break in reception] by the Reagan administration. In this regard, the U.S. military men are the direct leaders of this war; therefore, they are part of the military personnel that the guerrillas must fight. They have been, are, and will continue to be military targets. Therefore, the U.S. military personnel cannot consider themselves politically and militarily immune. They are a direct part of this war against the Salvadoran people; therefore, they are enemies of the people's struggle for their final liberation.

That is the significance and the framework of this growing and more frequent direct participation of U.S. military personnel in the clashes. To the extent that the war reaches the cities, this will become more frequent.

In addition, it must be borne in mind that the U.S. military personnel who are involved in the counterinsurgency war are not only the uniformed personnel. There are dozens of personnel who appear as civilians, who apparently have nonmilitary positions, and who are involved in advising, directing, promoting, and implementing the entire legal repression of the people's movement, the civilian movement that the people are carrying out to fight for their demands. (?This type of) U.S. personnel lies behind all the escalation of violence and repression in the country.

Also behind all of this are all those military elements linked to the intelligence services that organize the networks of spies and informers in strife-torn towns, where they seek to involve the greatest possible number of civilians in military activities. Through this, they involve a large number of persons in primarily military activities. This type of personnel is also part of the persons who wage the counterinsurgency war; therefore, they will also increasingly confront the people's military struggle.

[Reporter] Commander, now that you have mentioned the repression and the Americans' participation in these repressive plans, on 18 February, more bodies were found with signs of having been tortured. The throat of one had been slit, and another was found with an electoral card in the mouth. Within the framework of the counterinsurgency war in the nation, what is the significance of such incidents, which have increased in the last few days?

[Roca] It means that the government and the Armed Forces and their leaders, the Americans, are desperate. They believe the war is being lost, that the people's movement is advancing further, that they are losing control of the situation, and that moments of great popular struggle in both the political and military fields are about to take place. In view of this, there is a repressive plan by the government and the Armed Forces. In short, the plan consists of the following: combining legal repression—what the advisers term the legal war—with selective and indiscriminate repression. The government's civilian authorities are involved in legal repression. This includes the judges, the ministers, and the individuals the government uses to promote front and parallel trade unions. The American Institute for Free Labor Development is fully involved in this. All of this is accompanied by a heavy rain of dollars to finance this form—let us say the institutional form—of repression against the people's organization.

As for selective repression, [words indistinct] demonstrates this escalation. This repressive activity by the regime is increasing. Only a firm popular organization and a resolute popular struggle will be able to counteract and defeat it, because the regime cannot kill all the people when the people decide to resolutely wage their struggle. The regime believes that selective repression

could leave the people's movement leaderless. It estimates it could assassinate between 400 and 500 high- and mid-level cadres of the people's movement to halt the movement's development. This is a calculated and murderous objective that undoubtedly will be unsuccessful, because the Salvadoran people have learned how to counteract the repression. They know their organization and struggle are their main weapons to stop and unmask a regime that is carrying out repression. The regime tries to conceal this repression by freeing its repressive forces from responsibility in it. It seeks to blame death squads that are supposedly not linked to the government. Even more shamelessly and stupidly, it tries to blame the FMLN. This is an argument that the popular masses do not believe, because we know it from a long time ago. This is increasingly being unmasked, and a growing portion of independent sectors, including the church, are both condemning the escalation of the repression and pointing out who is really responsible. For example, there has been an unmasking of the plan to cover up the assassination of Herbert Anaya Sanabria by members of Duarte's Armed Forces.

As for the massive indiscriminate repression, the enemy has undoubtedly prepared and is already sending the riot battalion to the streets. To the extent that the people's movement further develops its struggle and organization, the riot force will not be enough. They will have to involve the Armed Forces in this; the members of the Army High Command practically stated this when they said they will have to reinforce the protection of the city.

There is unquestionably a plan involving these three types of repression that the Armed Forces are already carrying out. As has already been stated, the only effective response from the people is to increase their organization and their struggle. The puppet government, the Reagan administration, and the regime's repressive Armed Forces will be unable to stop the fighting spirit of the people's struggle, which has become a decisive factor in the advance of the process of popular war and popular struggle for the liberation of our people.

FMLN Destroys Electric Towers in Capital

PA231855 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Excerpts] The guerrilla organizations' urban commandos today stepped up their campaign to sabotage the national electricity system. They used explosive devices to destroy four electric towers located in different sectors of the capital.

The four explosions that shook the metropolitan area of San Salvador early this morning took place near highways under construction and a poor sector known as Miranda neighborhood, La Granjita Street, near San Antonio Abad Boulevard. The dynamite bombs reportedly were attached to electrici towers by the FMLN's urban commandos. Four electric towers were destroyed, but no casualties were reported, even though the towers were near some houses.

Three CAESS [Electric Light Company of El Salvador] crews arrived early this morning to begin repairs. More than six electric towers have been destroyed in this zone within 15 days. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, many sectors in the capital had no electricity, which caused several traffic jams. Additional reports indicate that two towers were destroyed between km 64 and 65, near San Luis village, on the road to Sensuntepeque. Six towns in Cabanas Department, located northeast of San Salvador, were left without electricity. Also, two towers were blown up in Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department.

These are the first acts carried out by urban commandos following the FMLN General Command's decision to order the first transportation stoppage. According to reports, the citizenry is alarmed, and officials are trying to counter the rebel actions.

Defense Ministry Notes 12 'Terrorists' Killed

PA232129 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Report by the Public Relations Department of the Defense Ministry]

[Text] It has been reported that 12 terrorists and 1 soldier were killed in various clashes that took place in several parts of the country. A member of the Paratroop Battalion reported that while the battalion was combing the region, they found at various locations the bodies of five terrorists who participated in the 18 February attack against military positions in La Laguna, Chalatenango. The bodies were found on the banks of the Junquillo, San Jose, and Cerro El Corralito Creeks in that jurisdiction. The troops also found a portable telephone, a knapsack with 10 explosive devices, and some ammunition clips near the bodies.

Three more subversives died during a firefight with members of the Belloso Battalion in La Cruz Canton, San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department. Similarly, members of the Atonal Battalion clashed with rebels near (Boropala) Bridge, Concepcion Batres, Usulutan, where two terrorists were killed.

In (El Yamal), (Chilangan), Morazan, members of Military Detachment No 4 clashed with a group of extremists. This armed clash left one subversive dead. The troops seized one M-16 rifle and accessories.

Another terrorist was killed when members of the 4th Infantry Brigade clashed with an FMLN column near (Los Apantes), in La Reina Jurisdiction, Chalatenango. There troops seized one AR-15 rifle, ammunition clips, and one knapsack containing subversive propaganda.

Meanwhile, the Military Engineering Detachment reported that one of its units was ambushed by terrorist groups near the (Ceos) substation in El Rosario, La Paz Department. One soldier was killed and two more wounded in this clash. The dead soldier was Luis Angel Basano Santos, 20. The wounded are Lieutenant (Cristobal Sordo Sanchez) and soldier Alfredo Abraham Ramirez, who were taken to the San Salvador Military Hospital.

The FMLN terrorists also kidnapped seven civilians. These include the ANDA [National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers] collector and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] candidate for municipal mayor of Alegria, Usulutan near (Sepastepeque), La Libertad. Those kidnapped are Manuel Guardado and Ricardo Arturo Batre. The latter is the PDC candidate for mayor of Alegria in the upcoming election, while Guardado is an ANDA collector in the same town in Usulutan Department.

The aforementioned were kidnapped at approximately 2300 on Friday from their respective homes. The subversives violently seized them and took them to undisclosed locations. The others kidnapped are: Ernesto Rivas, Julio Hernandez, Riverio Bernardino, Julio Rivera, and Jesus Villalobos, who were kidnapped last Saturday in Los Cerritos, Quezaltepeque Jurisdiction, La Libertad Department.

Elsewhere, the FMLN caused considerable damage, including at the (Santa Hermina) mill in Usulutan, which was damaged with explosives. At that location, the subversives set fire to administrative offices, four vehicles, one motorcycle, and one fuel tank. According to the owners, damage is estimated at 500,000 colons.

Rebel (Carlos Ramos del Cid) deserted the FMLN ranks and turned himself over to the Ponce Battalion of the 3d Infantry Brigade, which is protecting the people of Chapeltique, San Miguel Department. The deserter turned over one AR-15 rifle with all of the equipment assigned to him by the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army]. He told officials he was a member of the ERP.

Nicaragua

Further on Suspension of Cease-Fire Talks

Obando y Bravo Comments

PA232339 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1353 GMT 23 Feb 88

[News conference with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo by unidentified reporters in Managua; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] When are you going to meet with President Daniel Ortega? Will the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] continue to participate in the talks?

[Obando y Bravo] So far we have not set a date for a future meeting. In Guatemala, the government's delegation said Ortega had to [words indistinct] to me. However, for the time being, we have set no date. Regarding your second question, the RN was willing to continue the talks. We hope things can be straightened out and our suggestions will be taken into account. We also hope the talks can be renewed as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Msgr Obando y Bravo, the people are asking themselves: What has the National Reconciliation Commission done up to now? Recently nothing has been mentioned about that.

[Obando y Bravo] Well, as you know, the National Reconciliation Commission has presented a detailed report. I believe Radio Catolica is aware of it. The report was presented to the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, and, after that, no further meetings were held.

[Reporter] Cardinal Obando y Bravo, what can you tell us about amnesty?

[Obando y Bravo] One of the requests made in our proposal—I suppose you are aware of the proposal we made in Guatemala—was that the Nicaraguan Government would promise to grant amnesty to political prisoners; to allow full freedom of the press; to continue to hold talks with opposition political parties; and to revise the laws governing military service. For its part, the RN would avoid entering certain areas with their weapons and ammunition during a 30-day period to see if the negotiations will continue more effectively. [Words indistinct] amnesty, because the existing proposal has not been discussed.

[Reporter] Are you going to continue to participate in the National Reconciliation Commission and in the talks?

[Obando y Bravo] As I said before, the dialogue has momentarily been suspended to allow both sides to consider the proposal and some of the suggestions we made in the communique. Regarding the National Reconciliation Commission, no further meetings have been held, but we bishops must continue to evaluate the situation and continue to serve.

[Reporter] Msgr Obando y Bravo, the Nicaraguan people trust you in your role as negotiator. How far do you think the government and the EPS will yield? What were the exact points that prevented a cease-fire agreement from being reached?

[Obando y Bravo] The problem is not an easy one. However, in view of the impasse and the fact that they were going back to the same matters discussed in the Dominican Republic and in San Jose, Costa Rica...[Obando y Bravo changes thought] As you know, when members of the government delegation were asked about the cease-fire, they said they understood a cease-fire to

mean an end to the hostilities, and that it should be the only thing discussed. The RN, on the other hand, said: We have fought this war to create a democracy and not just to surrender. Therefore, the RN also insisted that the political issue should be considered. In view of this impasse, I made the proposal of which you are aware; but a telephone call from here, in Managua, was made asking that the proposal not be discussed at that time. Therefore, in view of this impasse, we issued the communique, which you know about, to give them the opportunity to consider the proposal.

[Reporter] Who made the telephone call, Cardinal Obando y Bravo?

[Obando y Bravo] The telephone call was made from Managua. According to reliable sources, it was made by President Daniel Ortega.

[Reporter] Have you held any talks with the RN yet?

[Obando y Bravo] The last time I talked to them was in Guatemala on Saturday. They said they were willing to continue with the talks once the mediator was ready.

[Reporter] What else can you tell us, Cardinal?

[Obando y Bravo] Well, we are in Lent. This is a time for prayer. I believe laymen play a very important role in solving our economic and political problems. We must work for a more fraternal, humane world, but we must not forget that we are only [word indistinct].

Without a doubt, I am concerned about the situation we are in. Let us ask the Lord to help us find a peaceful solution to the conflict, and solutions that can help us solve the economic problems that are afflicting the population.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Cardinal.

[Obando y Bravo] You are welcome. Good day to you.

Ortega Requests New Talks

PA232303 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Letter from President Daniel Ortega to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, issued on 23 February in Managua]

[Text] Managua, Free Nicaragua, 23 February 1988. For peace with dignity; free fatherland or death. His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, President, Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference Managua.

Your Eminence:

I write you to discuss the recent round of cease-fire negotiations held in Guatemala City on 18 and 19 February.

I believe it is useful to remind you that in the cease-fire negotiations meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 28 and 29 January, it was agreed by both the Nicaraguan Government and the counterrevolutionary delegations that the next meeting was to be held in Guatemala City on 10, 11, and 12 February. This agreement was subject to confirmation pending each delegations' agenda. At that time, Monsignor Bosco Vivas, who presided at the meeting, noted that his presence was necessary.

Taking into account what you have repeatedly noted—that 25 citizens die in Nicaragua daily as a consequence of the war of aggression suffered by our country—the government was dismayed to discover that the meeting scheduled for that date was suspended because you had not as yet returned to Nicaragua. Because the Nicaraguan Government was obliged to wait until 18 February to renew cease-fire talks, it is even more concerned because the meeting scheduled to last 3 days—18, 19, and 20 February—had been abruptly suspended, without consultation with the Nicaraguan Government's delegation or with the counterrevolution's delegation.

If we consider that 3 days of work, scheduled at a normal pace, means working 8 hours a day, in those 3 days the delegations should have worked 24 hours to advance the proposed agenda or points for agreement you presented on the afternoon of 18 February. This was not the case, and we now find the meetings were held at the following pace: 40 minutes for two bilateral meetings between the mediator and the Nicaraguan Government; 75 minutes for two bilateral meetings between the mediator and the counterrevolution; and 3 hours 10 minutes for two joint meetings between the mediator and both delegations. These activities took a total of 5 hours 5 minutes of hard work, and this is what makes the abrupt suspension of the meetings incomprehensible.

Bearing in mind the concern expressed in your communique, in which you unilaterally suspended the talks over a lack of decisionmaking power on the part of both delegations—even if in our case the delegation had an adequate level—I take the opportunity to inform you that I have decided to name Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo, deputy defense minister and chief of the EPS general command, to head the Nicaraguan Government's delegation to the cease-fire talks. This action does not modify the formation of the rest of the delegation that, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister [Victor Hugo] Tinoco, had been participating in the meetings. Similarly, we expect that in light of a concern expressed in your communique, the counterrevolution will raise the level of its delegation.

To seriously contribute to the effort to avoid bloodshed in Nicaragua and to stop the death of so many Nicaraguans—as you have noted—it would be appropriate if all the necessary time was made available and no efforts spared so that on 26, 27, and 28 February, a new meeting

can be held in Guatemala City to discuss the points of convergence of the two agendas outlined in the document you presented on the afternoon of 18 February.

I believe this document synthesizes the points the Nicaraguan Government and counterrevolution agree on with regard to a cease-fire. It also has the essential elements that should enable us to arrive at a definite cease-fire agreement and an end to the war. The Nicaraguan delegation, headed by Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo, is ready to participate in the meeting. Very truly yours, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President, Republic of Nicaragua

Reaction of Obando y Bravo

PA240055 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Report by Mario Zelaya]

[Excerpt] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has sent a letter to His Excellency Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the intermediary in the cease-fire negotiations. You will now hear the statement by Cardinal Obando y Bravo, as the official reaction of the church to the letter of President Ortega:

[Begin recording] We have read the letter. Obviously, we do not believe everything that it contains is true; for example, where it says that more time was given to the delegation of the Resistance than to that of the government. The fact is that at the beginning of the meeting, we met for exactly 1/2 hour with the government delegation, and exactly 1/2 hour with that of the Resistance. We had a scheduled agenda for the next day. However, the government delegation asked that we not sit down face-to-face, but rather, we beforehand hold another meeting with that delegation, and I (?agreed).

However, since the government delegation requested a separate meeting, the other side then asked for equal time. However, in the afternoon, the government delegation asked for yet another meeting. In other words, we met three times with the government delegation alone, and twice only with the Resistance delegation.

In other words, not all the meeting times were included. However, the mediator is not a simple messenger or a military man who is willing to do whatever the other party wants. He is not a simple messenger who is going to do the bidding of any particular camp. He is a person who can make decisions. Before agreeing to be a mediator, I stated frankly that I did not intend to be simply a messenger, but a person who can make decisions—not simply a robot.

However, it seems to me that the part about the desire for a dialogue and the appointment of Major...[corrects himself] that is, Commander Joaquin Cuadra, and the request that the other delegation also appoint high-ranking persons, and the dates [words indistinct] are consistent with what we want. Thank you very much. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ortega on 'Humanitarian' Aid

PA240513 Paris AFP in Spanish 0354 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (AFP)—Today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega stated in Managua that no aid approved by the U.S. Congress for the "contras" can be "humanitarian."

"It could be called that whimsically," the president said, in criticizing the approval of funds for the rebels. He stated that this will help them "to continue carrying out acts of terrorism."

The U.S. Congress is preparing to soon debate a Democratic proposal to provide "humanitarian" aid to the contras, after the congressmen rejected a request for $36 million 2 weeks ago.

Ortega, in statements made here following his meeting with Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo, said that in carrying out this type of discussion, the U.S. Congress "is meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs."

In fact, he added, it is "violating U.S. law, because the United States has not declared war on Nicaragua."

On another subject, Ortega replied to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is serving as a mediator between the Sandinists and the contras in cease-fire negotiations. He noted that "he [Obando y Bravo] is not anyone's messenger, but, in any case, he is God's messenger."

Obando y Bravo this afternoon had stated that he was not a "messenger, robot, or soldier to obey orders from his general," in response to criticism Ortega had expressed some hours before in a letter concerning the failure of the recent round of talks held in Guatemala to discuss mechanisms for an end to hostilities between the Sandinists and contras.

Ortega said that "no one can refuse" his government's request that a new meeting be held in that Central American capital this weekend.

The president asked that the two groups meet again on 26 to 28 February in Guatemala City.

Ortega stated that the proposal, addressed to the cardinal, is designed "to test whether the contras really wish to attain peace."

"The more we work, the closer we will be to the end of the war," the Sandinist leader said.

Today the president decided that his delegation would have a higher rank and more decisionmaking power at the talks, by designating Major General Joaquin Cuadra, deputy minister of defense, to head the official delegation.

D'Escoto News Conference on CIVS, Amnesty

PA211300 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1921 GMT 19 Feb 88

[News conference with Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, minister of foreign affairs, by unidentified reporters; date, place not given; live or recorded—broadcast in progress]

[Text] [D'Escoto] ...to lay down their weapons. This would be the only humanitarian thing to do. Let us see what the U.S. Government does. However, we are not aware of any decision in favor of continuing the war. Obviously, this would obstruct and delay peace. This could be the moment when the Central American peoples could have the peace that they demand and yearn for.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, the question of verification, within the framework of the Esquipulas II accords, has already been agreed upon. How is it possible that anyone can say that we have to practically start from scratch to set up the verification commission that has already been created? [sentence indistinct]. Then, Honduras—in your face-to-face talks—how do they explain the fact that they do not have to verify?

[D'Escoto] The concept of verification had already been approved, and the presidents have made some headway on selecting the people and organizations that were to take part in these tasks. It has been said that the Contadora and Support Group countries and the OAS and UN secretaries general would participate. No clear steps were taken to exclude the Central Americans from preparing the report. The work of organizing and setting up was left to us. As I have already said, we went ahead with that but never really finished it, because, right from the start, we knew that we would be asking for help from governments and countries outside the area, but we never agreed on which ones, so this remained pending. Also pending is the division of tasks and the separation of verification obligations between Central Americans and non-Central Americans, as required by the CIVS [Verification and Follow-Up Commission]. This remains pending.

How does Honduras justify its position? They just don't. They simply do not agree that CIVS should go to Honduras, arguing that that would be very dangerous, and that what they are trying to do is to present an alternative. They have already presented it to the OAS in November: multinational forces that could be [words indistinct] or mechanisms to guarantee border security. You will recall that this was the proposal that Nicaragua presented back in 1981. They had agreed that we were to meet to implement it, but they never wanted to meet. Now they present it as an alternative to on-site inspection, which they reject, but they will not meet to implement this alternative either. They say yes, that we will do this later, but from November to the present, many months have passed.

Now in El Salvador, they again presented the same suggestion. We do not criticize the proposal—it seems very good, but when will it be implemented? There are some who believe that this is just an excuse so as not to appear before the international public as completely disregarding the agreement. Then they present this as an alternative, but are also unwilling to take the steps to implement it. They say that in 1 month they might be ready—they are studying it.

We are ready to meet with Honduras right now and in the future. If they call us now, we are ready to meet this afternoon or tomorrow morning. This is not new; we have been presenting this idea for a long time now. They themselves, when presenting their alternative before the OAS, must have had the work completed on how it was to be implemented. Anyway, the fact that we may meet does not mean that an agreement will be prepared the following day, but we must first meet to start exchanging ideas and then begin a process; then, after about 15 days, there could be an agreement on how exactly this group, under the aegis of the United Nations, would be made up, and how it would be responsible for guaranteeing border security, and, if necessary, also security by land, air, and sea.

[Reporter] I would like to know if Nicaragua, independent of Honduras' intention of preventing verification on its territory, is willing to allow the entrance of any commission—as you yourself said—at any time, in any area of Nicaragua, or if this is dependent on whether everyone complies. Also, verification is a measure to guarantee compliance; do you believe then that steps will be taken against those who do not want to accept verification compliance?

[D'Escoto] Well, Nicaragua not only agrees but desires to (?implement) the on-site verification. Naturally, nobody has thought that this would be a unilateral application. This demands reciprocity by all. This does not mean that at the same time they must be...[changes thought]. If this is really going to work, it must be done by all, otherwise it would not be an inspection. For instance, there must be permanent mobile units in every one of the countries involved. [Words indistinct] and be established for about 1 year. These units should have a very reliable system with which to communicate with one another. For instance, if Nicaragua has a piece of information, it would be transmitted to the mobile unit here, which would then transmit it immediately to the Honduran unit. The latter would move rapidly without the need for preliminary notice. This must work like a chain. It will not work in isolation.

Now, what would be the consequences of noncompliance? I think that when permanent mobile units are installed in each country, everyone will comply. These are going to be the consequences. I think we will not have to deal much with noncompliance. As soon as these measures are taken, everybody will comply for fear of international political consequences. They know that if they do not comply, they would be found in open violation of not only the Esquipulas agreements, but international law and the UN and OAS Charters. For this reason, the countries would take quick steps to comply. I think that the moment these units are installed, 95 percent of the problems would be solved. [applause] These units, however, would have to continue to operate to avoid the immediate recurrence of these problems.

[Reporter] Has any other Central American country already presented a proposal to form this verification mechanism? When will Nicaragua's proposal begin to be discussed?

[D'Escoto] Nicaragua's verification proposal is the only one presented so far. Honduras' proposal is very interesting, but does not deal with verification; it deals with border security. In addition, this is merely the proposal we presented many years ago. But with regard to proposals to implement the entire verification, control, and follow-up mechanism for commitments within the Guatemala procedure, we have only the proposal presented by Nicaragua. According to point five of the joint communique issued right after the San Salvador meeting, these proposals will be considered at the upcoming executive commission meeting to be held in Guatemala, after the Hamburg meeting, and by mid-March.

[Reporter] It has been said the contras should lay down their weapons and return to the country to participate in the political dialogue. But the government has turned this national dialogue with the opposition parties into a debate club. The government has not made any commitment or concessions for changes. Will local measures complement Esquipulas II's foreign policy?

[D'Escoto] Nicaragua is the only country holding the national dialogue called for in the Esquipulas II agreements. This is important. Sometimes reporters criticize the dialogue and do not realize that things must be taken into consideration. We are discussing compliance with an agreement. This is the only country where this compliance has even been attempted. Have you also observed other countries' excuses not to comply? Such countries are presented by Mr Reagan as the leading examples of democracy. They said compliance is unnecessary because this is why they have a parliament, a congress, a legislative assembly. We could say something similar. In Nicaragua, however, a great effort has been made. One other thing. The presidents never intended to make a substitute for the legislative assemblies in the various countries. And it has been said that the law must be complied with. Here you encounter a group of politicians who make demands, moved by influences and often foreign interests and characterized by ignorance.

In reality, we in Nicaragua are taking our first steps in all aspects of this matter. When we were under U.S. control, there was never a possibility of experiencing democracy. Thus, these people have demanded the most absurd things. I think they have asked for 18 constitutional amendments. Are you an American? Yes? The U.S. Constitution is 202 years old, I think. There have been 26 constitutional amendments so far. And this in 202 years. You know the procedure perfectly, the importance of the Constitution, and how difficult it is to make an amendment. One of them, I think on women's equality, has been discussed for more than 20 years. So these gentlemen have asked for 18 changes. Just like that, as if this were the Congress. And then they said they would not otherwise continue the talks. Isn't this an absurd demand? This indicates a tremendous lack of maturity, yet we must be patient with these gentlemen. This is what we have been doing. We will keep trying to help them to be sensible and to participate in the government. The idea, however, is not for them to assume this type of position.

I believe there are things to be done in Nicaragua, and they should be subjected to a national dialogue. Do not forget that the whole business with the national dialogue has one basic purpose, which is obvious when one carefully analyzes all the documents, including those issued by the Contadora Group. The purpose of the dialogue is to open the possibility of reviewing the methods of popular participation in electoral processes. In truth, that is where the national dialogue takes place, where the representatives elected by the people hold their dialogue. We hold elections here. This is one of the few countries where no one has claimed that there has been an electoral fraud. In El Salvador, if you will recall, as soon as the elections took place, it was claimed domestically that the elections had been fraudulent. No one has ever claimed that here. And not only has no one said it, but we have available all the reports, which were very good reports, from international observers. You know this perfectly well.

We believe it was important that this national dialogue was held so that those parties that had not participated in the elections—either because they did not want to or because they were not permitted to—could also participate. Nicaragua has permitted the parties to participate, and I believe they should take the opportunity to speak about the municipal law, for instance, which includes provisions concerning municipal elections.

It remains to be seen then, if the dialogue is held, but not so that these gentlemen can impose their will on that of the National Assembly. No; that would not be legal. The idea would be to air matters, to discuss issues, but not to impose anything. What they want is to impose their own views under the threat that if things do not go their way,

further aid will be given to the contras. The strategy is clear. They say: We are going to make these demands, and they will have to comply with them; otherwise, the consequence of not satisfying the demands will be more aid for the contras. That is obviously not in the spirit of what is being sought. In reality, despite all its problems, Nicaragua is the only country where a national dialogue exists in accordance... [changes thought] even with all the defects you have mentioned. I know where the real causes of this problem lie. This is the only country in which a dialogue exists. The other states have said that they had had enough of the debates held in their congresses and parliaments.

[Reporter] As for the figure of the mediator, on the eve of this meeting—I do not know if it has been confirmed during the course of the meeting—the mediator seems to have made a proposal in which much is made of Nicaragua's noncompliance with Esquipulas II. Given this, how do you evaluate the role of the mediator, whom both you and the other party selected and accepted? Also, a second, a deeper question: Esquipulas II is an agreement that has no precedent in history. Its signatories are legally bound before the international community to fulfill several commitments. I would like to know what the presidents' motivations were, particularly those of Presidents Duarte and Azcona, in signing the Esquipulas accords, especially in view of the continuous impasse concerning verification.

[D'Escoto] As for the statements of the cardinal, I assume you know that he—aside from his role as mediator—is the president of the National Reconciliation Commission. I do not know under which of these two hats he has issued these observations. He would seem to have been acting more as president of the National Reconciliation Commission. In that case, the ideas he presented were to be brought before the commission, discussed with the president, and recorded as suggestions in the reports that the respective national reconciliation commissions will have to present to the Executive Commission.

Now, as to what was the Central American presidents' motivation in signing the Esquipulas accords, I believe that all of the Central American presidents, without exception, desire peace. Moreover, each country has its own problems;, but, even so, I do not doubt the desire for peace that exists in all of them. In addition, they do not want to continue to be involved in other peoples' disputes, and this has been clearly indicated.

In my opinion, it took a lot of courage to sign the Esquipulas agreement, and I agree that the signing of Esquipulas II is like a second declaration of independence for Central America. Yesterday morning, I heard the comments on television by Edward Corr, the U.S. ambasador to El Salvador. He also surprised me a great deal, because he stated that the Esquipulas II accords had been a second declaration of independence. He said so himself.

Central America wants peace. The Central American countries want to continue their development process. They want to become independent, free of the foreign domination that often involves them in problems totally against their will, which is possible only because of the tremendous dependence that exists. This is the situation vis-a-vis the United States. The U.S. Government, the Reagan administration, did not want this document to be signed. It was, as I have said, an act that demanded a great deal of courage. At a given moment in time, the peoples' desire for peace was chosen over and above other considerations. This is my explanation as to why it was signed.

In addition, I was not surprised. I feel what happened at Esquipulas II is part of a process that has been growing for a year or more in Central America. In our meetings on a Central American level, we notice—now in El Salvador, for instance—an ever-increasing capacity for sincere and frank communication. We speak more openly about the problems that certain situations pose for us. We have sincere discussions about what to do to overcome the difficulties and the feelings of impotence or helplessness in solving them.

I believe Central American unity and fraternity is too deep to be permanently harmed by a temporary policy that attempts to divide us and use some of us to fight the others. We are marching toward recovering the unity we once possessed, a unity that has been negatively affected by the imperial policy.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

14 Opposition Parties Reject Arce Statements

PA232257 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the 14 opposition political parties on 17 February in Managua—read by Jose Antonio Bonilla, "executive secretary" of the 14 opposition political parties]

[Text] In view of statements by Commander Bayardo Arce Castano, member of the FSLN National Directorate, published in BARRICADA on Sunday, 14 February 1988, the 14 political parties and organizations participating in the national dialogue established by Esquipulas II declare the following to the Nicaraguan people and the international community:

Since we joined the national dialogue, we have expressed our willingness to participate in it to reach agreements to achieve the democratization that is necessary for reconciliation and a firm and lasting peace in our country—the main objective of the Esquipulas II accords.

Our willingness to overcome the national crisis has not been answered by the Sandinist government, which, in adopting arrogant positions, has not replied to our demands for democratization that are contained in the

proposal for 17 constitutional reforms. Instead, the Sandinist government has unleashed a campaign of threats and slander against the leaders and members of our organizations.

The slander campaign has reached such extremes of inconsistency that Commander Bayardo Arce, on behalf of his party and the FSLN government, has falsely and irresponsibly stated that at our meetings, we plan violent acts, which are alien to the search for democratization and peace. The latter is the reason for the existence of this national dialogue.

These public statements demonstrate the political exhaustion and intransigence of the FSLN, as well as its fear of the unity of the 14 parties, which is a unity that it has unsuccessfully attempted to fracture in various ways.

We reject and condemn these threats, and we hold the FSLN National Directorate responsible for any outrages or acts of aggression against our organizations.

Managua, 17 February 1988

Signed: Democratic Conservative Party, Nicaraguan Socialist Party, Constitutionalist Liberal Party, Social Christian Party, Social Democratic Party, Central American Unionist Party, Social Christian Party [name as heard], Liberal Party, PALI; Popular Social Christian Party, Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Communist Party of Nicaragua, Unity and Democratization Movement, Nicaraguan Conservative Party [name as heard], Independent Liberal Party.

New National Assembly Leadership Chosen

PA240132 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1659 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Political sources today stated that Mauricio Diaz Avila, leader of the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], has been removed from the National Assembly's board of directors. The National Assembly's fourth period of sessions opens today.

Diaz Avila, the PPSC secretary general, was second vice president of the National Assembly.

Political sources attributed the opposition leader's removal to a "reprisal" because he did not attend yesterday's preparatory session of the National Assembly and because his organization is part of the group of 14 opposition parties.

These 14 dissident parties have demanded that the Nicaraguan Government implement 17 constitutional reforms as an essential condition to begin a process of democratization in Nicaragua.

The most active opposition deputies of the Communist, Socialist, and Liberal Independent parties also did not attend this preparatory session.

Of the 96 Assembly deputies, only 71 attended. These were 11 Conservatives, 1 Socialist, 2 Marxist-Leninists, 2 Independent Liberals, 2 Popular Social Christians, with the remainder Sandinist deputies.

The new board of directors of the National Assembly is as follows: Commander Carlos Nunez is president; Leticia Herrera, secretary general of the Sandinist Defense Committees, is first vice president; Clemente Guido, a leader of the Democratic Conservative Party, is second vice president; and Socialist Domingo Sanchez is third vice president.

Rafael Solis, former Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington; Marxist-Leninist Isidro Tellez, and Sandinist farmer Juan Tijerino are, respectively, first, second, and third secretaries of the Assembly.

The only "new face" on the board of directors is Tellez, secretary general of the Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement, who replaces, although in another position, PPSC leader Mauricio Diaz Avila. [sentence as received]

Diaz Avila Comments on Ouster

PA240352 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Statement by PPSC Secretary General Mauricio Diaz Avila on his removal from the leadership of the National Assembly—recorded]

[Text] It is difficult to discuss events that directly affect oneself. However, politically speaking, I believe the FSLN's decision to exclude me from the leadership of the National Assembly demonstrates the tendency of that party [to force] the Assembly's political parties to either assume servile roles or be left out.

I believe that decision was made due to our honesty and our insistence on demanding democratic reforms, which consist of 17 constitutional reforms that the 14 political [opposition] parties are supporting. I believe that together with this type of decision and the message, or rather the scolding, that the president gave the opposition yesterday, the FSLN is demonstrating an enormous lack of tolerance for its opponents. This shows that it is not one bit democratic and that it intends to stay in power forever.

I believe this will strengthen those parties that believe Nicaragua absolutely needs a process of democratization to achieve peace.

I alert the public and the members of my party to prepare to face those dissident sectors that lend themselves as instruments of the government party to try to divide and weaken us, and to prove to public opinion that our

demands belong to the CIA, imperialism, and the reactionaries. The truth is that we have been demanding these reforms since the 1984 elections, since 1986 when we participated in the Constituent Assembly, and since the time we signed the agreement of the summit of political parties with the Sandinist Front, where the Sandinists, through Bayardo Arce Castano, committed themselves to democratizing the nation.

How many victims, how many deaths could have been avoided if they had complied with what they signed in 1984? It even would have beem unnecessary to sign Esquipulas II. However, they are intransigent and inflexible; they prefer monologue to dialogue.

Wycliffe Diego Named to Contra Leadership

PA181600 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica—Indian leader Wycliffe Diego will replace Alfonso Robelo in the counterrevolutionary leadership, in a maneuver to undermine the Atlantic coast peace efforts, YATAMA [Miskito, Sumo, Rama Indians, and Creole Groups Organization] leader Brooklyn Rivera charged.

The CIA plan calls for the appointment of Diego to divide YATAMA and isolate Brooklyn Rivera and those who negotiate peace with Nicaragua's revolutionary government.

Today Brooklyn Rivera announced that he would return to Managua on 27 February to continue negotiations with the Sandinist government that began last January.

COSEP on 'Fallacies' of Monetary Reform

PA240350 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Statement issued by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, on 17 February in Managua]

[Text] To All Nicaraguans:

The COSEP believes that this is a suitable moment for presenting to the Nicaraguan people this initial evaluation of the economic-administrative measures that the Sandinist government recently decreed and that took effect on 15 February 1988. In light of the fact that additional measures to complement this economic reform (the fiscal reform, for example) are not yet known, we are conducting only a preliminary evaluation to inform the people.

The objectives of the measures decreed by the government: The government has clearly announced that the main objective of these decrees is to stop inflation; to improve the Nicaraguan people's standard of living by restoring, to some degree, the purchasing power of the cordoba; and to aid the poor. The measures are also aimed at stimulating production and at correcting price distortions.

The real effects of the measures decreed by the government: What these measures will really achieve is the following:

1. Inflation will not be stopped. It will continue at the same rate and perhaps even increase. We must recall that the cause of inflation is the issuance of money that is not backed by production. The Sandinist government has been doing this to finance its fiscal deficit, which is as huge as the state apparatus. None of the measures decreed by the government is aimed at correcting this fiscal deficit, which is the main cause of inflation.

In addition, the decreed devaluation leaves private and state producers and enterprises without the working capital needed to make enterprises function. They will be able to function only if they are granted financial support. However, since there are no savings in the nation and no foreign financing, this financial support can thus only come through the issuance of more money with no backing; that is, inflation will continue. On the other hand, if no financial support is extended to the production sector due to a lack of resources, then production will be increasingly paralyzed and economic chaos will grow.

2. The Nicaraguan people's standard of living will not improve; it will become worse. The devaluation will make production costs rise, and, therefore, there will be a general price increase. Official price lists recently issued by the Sandinist government establish, from the start, a generalized price hike. All Nicaraguans know as a result of almost 9 years of experience that official prices are not complied with and that real prices will be much higher than what has been decreed.

As inflation continues, prices will continue to climb and salaries will not increase proportionately, which is what has happened up to the present. The people know this. The general increase of wages and salaries, which was decreed as part of the economic-administrative measures, will not compensate for the initial price hikes. Every day this discrepancy between salaries and prices will grow worse and will further lower the Nicaraguan people's standard of living.

3. Poor Nicaraguans are the ones most hurt by these measures. The general increase of wages and salaries decreed by the Sandinist government largely benefits those in the upper echelons of the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System]. Those at scale 1—the equivalent of the minimum wage, let us say—will receive an increase that is 4.05 times greater than their previous salary. Those at the higher scale could qualify for an increase 13.5 times their previous salary. Therefore, it is not the humble sector that benefits the most.

We can justly state that the three objectives Sandinist propaganda is proclaiming (the fight against inflation, improving the standard of living, and benefits for the poor) are three fallacies. None of them will be attained.

The Causes of Economic Chaos [subhead]

For almost 9 years, COSEP has been clearly stating that the economic policies of the Sandinist regime would end up ruining Nicaragua. Excessive controls on production and on management; the ideological appetite for confiscations; the lack of respect for the right to own property; the lack of respect for economic freedom; the contempt for the law of supply and demand; the massive confiscations; the Agrarian Reform Law with its exclusively political, not economic, goals; the nationalization of enterprises that later were mismanaged by state officials; in sum: the lack of political will to search for national solutions that would permit quiet coexistence in freedom have caused this huge crisis and this economic chaos with important social consequences. The FSLN has very clearly demonstrated its complete inability to govern this country.

Solutions [subhead]

Liberty promotes prosperity. For almost 9 years, COSEP has been pointing out daily that it is necessary to abandon the Sandinist plan to try to impose an ideological platform that is not in line with the beliefs of Nicaraguans. Only economic freedom can effectively contribute to bringing this chaos and misery to an end. Economic liberty promotes production. Lack of economic freedom has been one of the important factors that has caused inflation in Nicaragua and that has brought misery to Nicaraguans.

Respect for all other freedoms will bring peace, and will permit national reconciliation. It will allow all Nicaraguans to coexist in quiet liberty.

God save Nicaragua!

Managua, 17 February 1988

LA PRENSA on 'Too Late' Monetary Reform

PA200407 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] To provide some guidance to Nicaraguans in view of the confusion, distrust, and insecurity caused by the monetary reform announced on Sunday, LA PRENSA has prepared the following analysis. The analysis explains the measures, their results, and what the prospects are for the near and distant future.

The monetary conversion law is part of the monetary reform plan announced by President Ortega on 14 February. Other laws and decrees that form part of the program are the monetary law, the law regulating the inflow and outflow of national currency, the law on the approval of labor agreements, and two Ministry of Labor resolutions on work schedules and per diem payments. [passage omitted]

Conclusions [subhead]

1. We believe the monetary reform plans come too late in this extreme crisis in our national production. This crisis will prevent the state from maintaining an adequate supply of goods and services to influence inflation. Inflation will continue at its present rate.

2. Only monetary policy measures have been addressed, without forcefully attacking the causes of inflation: the government deficit, the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System], the causes of the war, the lack of confidence by producers in the Marxist-Leninist ideology of Sandinism, and so on.

3. Public and private enterprises will face serious problems resulting from increased costs due to the devaluation of the cordoba, the upheaval in the financial system caused by debts, and the drastic increase in wages.

4. The monetary reform plan will be carried out by the same Sandinist cabinet ministers who have failed in the past. They will not be able to create miracles in the present economic crisis.

Contras Clash With Navy; No Casualties Reported

PA231944 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Report by Luis Arroliga]

[Text] This is a report from Region 2, Chinandega Department:

Comrade Marta Isabel Cranshaw, presidential delegate; Commander Daniel Blanco, Ministry of Interior chief in this zone; and Comrade Major Vicente Chavez of State Security reported that the enemies of the revolution, the mercenaries, arrived in Los Charros and Maranonal sectors, near the coasts of Cosiguina, where they yesterday carried out two attacks against the Sandinist navy. These attacks lasted 10-15 minutes. The mercenaries could not reach our coasts, where they planned to harm our population. This report was given by Comrade Marta Isabel Crancho, the zonal government delegate.

The mercenaries returned to Honduras in their Piranha boats without causing any casualties or property damage on the Sandinist Navy.

Panama

Defense Forces Arrest 28 U.S. Soldiers

PA231530 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 88 p 1-A

[Article by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Some 28 U.S. soldiers stationed at different military bases in the Canal Zone were arrested by the Panama Defense Fources in an operation conducted at the same time as the arrest of General Noriega's relatives, an authorized Southern Command spokesman reported.

However, the Southern Command spokesman said it is not known whether the arrests occurred as reprisals for the arrest by U.S. soldiers of a couple who identified themselves as "Noriega's daughter and son-in-law."

The source stated that the "inexplicable" arrest of the U.S. soldiers occurred because the soldiers were wearing uniforms while traveling on motorcycles from their homes in Panama City to their corresponding military bases.

The couple, who were traveling in a sports car, were arrested because the driver exceeded the speed limit and did not obey the Air Force military patrol's orders to stop. The patrol pursued the vehicle and finally stopped it. The driver of the sports car then warned the patrolman of his alleged immunity, and he and his companion insulted the patrolman.

Although the authorities refused to give the names of the arrested people, their description corresponds to Sandra Noriega de Beauchamps, daughter of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, and her Dominican husband.

The couple was taken to the Albrook substation for the corresponding notification to the Panamanian authorities in Amador, to where they were transferred 1 hour later.

The Southern Command spokesman pointed out that actions such as driving at excessive speed, passing other vehicles over a double line, and disobeying orders is against the traffic laws anywhere in the city.

Regarding the multiple arrests of U.S. soldiers, the Southern Command has presented a protest note to the Joint Commission on an internal level. The Southern Command is planning to adopt more serious measures because of the arrests made in the area between Friendship Road and Fort Amador.

The Southern Command source maintained that "wearing uniforms strictly when traveling from their residence to their work place, as well as choosing the transportation means they wish, is established in the treaties signed by Panama and the United States, which have been in effect since October 1979."

The soldiers, the source added, were released at Fort Amador a few hours after they had been arrested.

Arrests 'Childish'

PA232224 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1901 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Commentary by Carlos Arellano Lennox]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I have no further information, but the people who call me are very serious. I know the operation [arresting U.S. soldiers] continued this morning, and there is a stand-by [preceding word in English] situation in the Canal Zone, in certain areas. I say this because, and I insist this is a case of childishness. [sentence as heard] I believe these are somewhat childish reactions. We have to be realistic. We return to what I said earlier: It is not what we want; it is a question of what we have.

This is not going to be fixed by rash behavior, by saying: Is that Noriega's daughter? Let's grab her. It would have been childish to do this, if the Americans did so. It is childish on the part of the Panamanians if they say: So they did that to Noriega's daughter; now we are going to do this. This would also be childish.

This reminds me of a big baby. It seems as if we are being managed by rulers with childish minds. This cannot be. If a situation arises, let's get together, let's find out what happened, get an explanation. That is why the Foreign Ministry has channels of communication. But let's not charge in to do things as if it were my farm. On my property, if something is done to me, I give orders for so and so not to be let in, because it is my property, my apartment. But when I am managing a country I cannot do this. Gentlemen rulers, we cannot do that. I consider this childish. We must mature. It is not a question of cursing the loudest to gain attention. That is what we did when we were children.

We have to be more serious and more responsible. I do not know where all this started, but if someone was arrested for a traffic violation, it is an arbitrary act. This is childish. If this led to verbal aggression, or resistance, or something, then there is another reason. We would have to find out what really happened. But then it will be your word against mine.

This leads to another problem, and everyone says things happened as he saw it. Nothing is the truth, nothing is a lie, everything depends on how you look at it. Some will

say it happened like this, others will say it happened like that. What I say is: How is it possible for a simple traffic incident to lead to a tense situation like the one we are experiencing now?

No one knows how this can end. Let us hope that this will not have other consequences. I say this because this happened yesterday and it is happening today. [passage omitted]

Paredes Testifies on Slander, Libel Charges

PA232125 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] At 1015 this morning, General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, was escorted to the 5th Circuit Prosecutor's Office to testify in the wake of a suit filed against him by President Eric Arturo Delvalle. Attorneys Rogelio Cruz and Guillermo Cochez accompanied Paredes.

During the hearing a large number of local and foreign newsmen gathered in the waiting area to greet former Defense Forces Commander Ruben Dario Paredes. When asked about this summons, attorney Rogelio Cruz said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] When will this end?

[Cruz] I think it will be a brief procedure. We will comply with another summons at the 4th District Prosecutor's Office later. We hope that will also be brief.

[Reporter] Is this a [words indistinct]?

[Cruz] This is part of an investigation. I will gladly give you details once we are outside. [end recording]

Jaime Fernandez, a relative of Gen Paredes, commented on the general's summons to appear at the prosecutor's office:

[Begin Fernandez recording] Mrs Paredes phoned me this morning. She said at approximately 1030 today Department of Investigations agents asked the general to accompany them to the prosecutor's office where he is facing a slander and libel suit filed by the president.

We accompanied Gen Paredes to the prosecutor's office where he only allowed his son and attorneys to stay with him. We are awaiting news. [end recording]

Meanwhile, attorney Guillermo Cochez said:

[Begin Cochez recording] As soon as this hearing is over, perhaps at 1430 or 1500, we will go to the 4th Circuit Prosecutor's Office where another slander and libel suit against Gen Paredes was filed by Major Cleto Hernandez. Gen Paredes charged that Hernandez participated in the murder of his son Ruben Dario. [end recording]

Discusses Questioning

PA240415 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, was taken to the 5th and 4th Circuit Prosecutors' Offices to answer questions in connection with a number of slander and libel lawsuits filed against him by President Eric Arturo Delvalle and Major Cleto Hernandez.

Accompanied by his lawyers, the former military officer was questioned for almost 5 hours by the two prosecutors.

Paredes is scheduled to present himself on Thursday to the 1st Circuit Court, where another lawsuit for slander and libel has been filed by President Delvalle.

After leaving the prosecutor's office, the former officer made statements to the local and foreign press, emphasizing that he had been treated well during the questioning. Paredes said he had no knowledge of any bail being set for him. In addition, he asked the Attorney General's Office to investigate the murder of his son, which took place 2 years ago in Medellin, Colombia.

Paredes emphasized that he is a free man.

[Begin Paredes recording] I cannot say. [sentence as heard] I believe that I am not a criminal. I am a Panamanian who would like to live as if we were completely free. I will continue to tell the truth as I see it. In addition, because I believe the Republic deserves to have true democracy, I think it is important to take advantage of the occasion—the statement made by the church just a few days ago—for the executive and General Noriega himself to change course. There is little room for it, but what room there is, is very valuable, and also for the politicians, the leaders of the Civic Crusade. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

University Dean on Impact of Noriega Coup

PA231833 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Feb 88 p 22A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Edgardo Molina Mola, University of Panama Law School dean, has said that if [General Manuel Antonio] Noriega were to stage a coup d'etat, the country would fall "into a night of military terror."

The university professor said if this were to occur, all the world's countries would isolate Panama, because they could not recognize a government stemming from a coup.

"A coup d'etat would sink the country into economic chaos and might even provoke a civil war."

Molino Mola added that presently it seems "the military men are the owners of the country," and we are the vassals who are here just to serve them.

Nevertheless, he said Panama definitely does not deserve to live like this even though everything seems to indicate that the nation is on the brink of civil confrontation.

The dean of the university's Law and Political Sciences Department added that for the good of the citizens, General Manuel Antonio Noriega must retire from the Defense Forces.

"I do not know how the people around Noriega can continue maintaining such a situation."

He said that it cannot be that the citizens who surround the general are accepting the country's current situation.

Regarding this topic, he said the only honorable and honest solution was shown by Lawrence Chewning Fabrega, the second-ranking envoy at the Panamanian OAS mission.

Molina Mola said if the people supporting the authorities had some decency, they would have already abandoned the government.

All of them should leave the government, because their continued support "is as if they are working for a criminal organization," the law school dean said.

People who consider themselves decent cannot continue in the government under the present circumstances, he added.

"The only explanation is that either they are accomplices of what is going on or they definitely have something to hide."

Molino Mola said that those who are benefiting from the privileges of power sometimes "do not care if the country sinks, as long as they maintain those privileges."

This cannot be, because the country cannot be sacrificed to favor a few. The country needs to return to normal, Molino Mola said.

He also said that "we are definitely going to have to sit down" to resolve the crisis, and we are going to have to accept some things even if we do not want to; but this does not mean the crimes that have been committed will be completely forgotten.

He stressed that the essential thing is to find a solution so Panama will not be destroyed.

Half of Withdrawn Bank Deposits 'Recovered'

PA240200 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Over the last 4 months, the Panamanian banking system has recovered approximately 50 percent of the local deposits that had been withdrawn during the third quarter of 1987, during which time the seditious elements unleashed violent "economic terrorism" against Panama.

According to reports given yesterday to CRITICA by Mario De Diego, executive director of the National Banking Commission, the banking system has recovered approximately 103 million balboas of the 208 million that had been withdrawn from the first months of the second half of 1987 until October.

"The strengthening trend in Panamanian private banks began to be felt in early October and has accelerated during the first weeks of 1988," De Diego emphasized.

Regarding the recovery process of the Panamanian banking center, the high-ranking official added that nearly 40 percent of the recovery took place "during the last 5 weeks of the same period of time," and that it "was advantageous to both commercial and mortgage banks within the national private banking system."

De Diego said he was optimistic that, based on this encouraging news, the Panamanian banks would shortly be able to reactivate the credit programs that had been drastically curtailed during the critical phase of "economic terrorism."

He explained that local private deposits form the basis for the nation's financial sector, and that "most of these deposits are in private Panamanian banks."

In his concluding remarks, De Diego acknowledged the importance of the role played in this recovery by the "actions carried out by various sectors of the banking community to obtain the return of the deposits to the banking system."

Argentina

Ministry Says U.S. Loan Shows 'Support'

PY232259 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2215 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM)—The Economy Ministry this afternoon officially announced that the U.S. Treasury decided today to grant a $550-million short-term bridge loan to Argentina.

The ministry communique states that the U.S. decision to grant this loan shows U.S. support for the Argentine economic program, which is aimed at granting the country sustained growth and a feasible balance of payments.

Jaunarena Views Antarctic Sector, Treaty

PY231700 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Feb 88 p 11

[Tex] (NA-DYN)— Minister Horacio Jaunarena said last night that in 1991 Argentina would ratify its permanence in the Atlantic sector it claims as part of its territory despite probable reforms to the Atlantic Treaty which would expose claimed territories in the area to an international process.

In a nationwide broadcast marking the 84th anniversary of Argentina's presence in Antarctica, Jaunarena said this presence was a kind of destiny closely linked to the rest of Argentine life.

The minister stressed that the 84 years of Argentina's presence in the Antarctic, since the inauguration of a scientific observatory in the South Orkney Islands on February 22, 1904, was a record of permanency and operation.

He said of the Atlantic treaty that it was the only legal document in force which ruled on the behaviour of the countries operating a so far unknown balance in "this peace zone."

The treaty, however, could be subject to amendments in 1991 and the initial territorial claims, which were now frozen, could be exposed to a process of internationalization, Jaunarena said.

"But in the government we feel that our legitimate sovereignty claims in the area shall be strengthened that day before the world by the testimony of the true, professional and effective scientific activity developed by our men in that portion of a hostile land," he added.

Tin Group Meets; Requests U.S. Restrictions

BK221323 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0850 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 22 (BERNAMA)—The Association of Tin Producing Countries (ATPC) reiterated its call to the United States to restrict its releases of tin from its strategic stockpile and complement the seven-nation grouping's efforts to bring normalcy to the tin market.

ATPC Chairman Dr Lim Keng Yaik, who is attending the Cairns Group ministerial meeting in Argentina, said in a statement released here Monday that the move was for the mutual benefit of producers and consumers in the long term.

The US reportedly announced that its tin stockpile releases for this year would amount to not more than 5,000 tonnes.

The primary industries minister also officially confirmed that the total export and domestic consumption of the ATPC during its year-long second supply rationalisation scheme (SRS) begining March 1 has been fixed at 101,900 tonnes.

ATPC members will keep their total exports for the first two years of SRS at 192,000 tonnes or 96,000 per year.

However, in view of the expected export shortfall of 5,900 tonnes anticipated for the first year period which ends on Feb 29, the amount has been carried forward to the second year.

ATPC officials expect the actual shortfall, caused mainly by Thailand and Bolivia not fulfilling their apportioned quotas, to be closer to the 5,000 tonnes level when the final figures are in at the end of the SRS period.

Under the SRS the domestic consumption and export quota for Australia is 7,700 tonnes, Bolivia (12,500 tonnes), Indonesia (29,000 tonnes), Malaysia (31,650 tonnes), Nigeria (550 tonnes), Thailand (19,000 tonnes) and Zaire (1,500 tonnes).

He also said the ATPC was confident that the banks which are holders of substantial tin metal stocks would continue with their pragmatic policies on releases of tin for the mutual interest of producers and the banks.

The Bank of Tokyo, Malayan Banking and Bank Bumiputra Malaysia BHD are reported to be holding an estimated 23,000 tonnes of tin in the aftermath of the collapse of the London tin market 1985 while Shearson Lehman have about 5,000 tonnes.

Dr Lim said China and Brazil have confirmed that both the countries would continue to cooperate with ATPC and limit their exports for 1988 to 10,000 tonnes and 26,500 tonnes respectively.

The estimated 1988 production of the ATPC and together with exports from non-ATPC members Brazil and China account for more than 85 per cent of the estimated world production.

Bolivia

UK Military Maneuvers on Falklands Condemned

PY231251 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0259 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 22 Feb (EFE)—The Bolivia Government today condemned the imminent British military maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands and warned that the maneuvers will undermine peace and tranquillity on the continent.

Union organizations and representatives of the legislative branch have also expressed their opposition to the military operations and their solidarity with the Argentine people's action to prevent "the military aggression."

A Foreign Ministry communique states that "due to the imminent British military maneuvers in the Malvinas Islands zone, the Bolivian Foreign Ministry expresses its concern and condemns this attitude that endangers peace and tranquillity on the continent."

The Bolivian Government expresses "complete solidarity with Argentine in its legitimate sovereign rights over the Malvinas Islands."

Moreover, Bolivia supports "Argentine negotiations at the United Nations attempting to stop these types of military maneuvers." The government also expresses its desire for immediate and frank talks between the two nations.

The need to establish agreements between the two conflicting countries to guarantee "a climate of real peace and cooperation" in the South Atlantic zone is another point stressed by the government communique.

The COB, Bolivia's top union organization, has also repudiated the military maneuvers in the Malvinas Islands "because they represent an aggression and an attack on Argentine sovereignty and the desire for peace that characterizes the Argentine people."

Deputy Antonio Aranibar, of the Free Bolivia Movement [Movimiento Bolivia Libre], today said that the Argentine people "are suffering an aggression similar to that suffered by Bolivians when American troops intervened in their territory, three consecutive times, in a clear show of arrogance."

Information Minister on Talks With COB

PY231321 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Information Minister Herman Antelo has said that the executive branch wishes to resume talks with the COB, in an effort to reach an accord on the demands that are included in the single national petition. Antelo said that workers must return to the negotiating table because the two sides must participate in making decisions, adding that most of the issues have already been resolved by the committees that were created by both sides, but there are minor details that must receive final consideration. The minister expects the negotiations to end this week because the conclusion of the talks is very near. Antelo said that a decision has already been made on most issues and that a final meeting should be held before the COB gives its final answer.

[Begin Antelo recording] [Words indistinct] I would say that the conclusion of the talks is very near, because for the last meeting—which was suspended—the government had already made a decision on all the issues, and these decisions were then to be considered by the COB. Consequently, I believe that a final meeting is necessary to analyze the decisions on each topic and for the COB to give an answer. We hope this meeting can be held Monday. [end recording]

Interior Minister Views Antidrug Plan

PY231305 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has said that Bolivia has explained to the U.S. Government and to international organizations their plan to fight drug trafficking, adding that Bolivia has shown its willingness to eradicate drug trafficking using the most appropriate methods. He noted that Bolivia has asked for increased international cooperation for the eradication of this scourge.

Duran reported that Bolivia has the funds needed for the implementation of the designed programs and that these funds have been provided by countries and organizations involved in the program against drug trafficking. The minister refused to report on the available funds, but he stressed that they are enough to guarantee efficient action by the specialized agencies that were created for this specific purpose.

[Begin Duran recording, in progress] ...several budget allocations, some of them from foreign sources—friendly countries, like the United States—from multilateral sources, the United Nations, which has provided funds through [words indistinct], and also from the national treasury. These funds will be used in the struggle against drug trafficking.

I'd rather not give figures before the approval of the nation's general budget and before the conclusion of the negotiations being held through the Foreign Ministry, and which will establish the amounts to be provided by each foreign source. [end recording]

Duran stressed that government agencies will impose strict control on drug consumption in Bolivia, in view of a recent increase in drug consumption.

Finance Minister on Debt With Argentina

PY231827 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
20 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] "Bolivia owes Argentina about $600 million," Finance Minister Juan Cariaga has said, adding that $60 million must be paid by next 1 March, according to the agreement signed in September 1987. However, he explained that according to a previous agreement, Bolivia will only pay $24 million by the beginning of next month for interest.

Cariaga said that he does not know the exact amount of the Bolivian debt with Argentina because these figures are handled by the Central Bank. He said that "the government understands that the debt amounts to approximately $600 million for the importation of goods and services."

He said that the $24 million to be repaid by Bolivia next month will be deducted from the retention account or counter trade account, which holds approximately $221 million, and which our country has with Argentina for the supply of goods and services. This means that the national treasury will not have to make a disbursement.

According to a Central Bank report, the latest conciliatory negotiations between the two countries has determined that the Bolivian debt with Argentina amounts to $600 million. It also agreed that Bolivia will only pay the interest and that the capital has been refinanced over a 25-year repayment term with a 15-year grace period.

Bedregal Announces Argentine Debt Payment

PY232021 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
20 Feb 88 p 1

[Excerpts] The Argentine Government yesterday ordered the payment of $20 million on its pending account with Bolivia, Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has announced.

The foreign minister said at a news conference that there is a balance of $44.4 million, which will be paid late in April. Thereafter, Argentina will keep its payments current.

The foreign minister and Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada met with President Raul Alfonsin on 17 February. [passage omitted]

According to official reports, payments in arrears until the end of January amounted to $64.4 million, a sum that will increase in April. [passage omitted]

Scientists Participating in Soviet Space Probe

PY240052 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
18 Feb 88 p 1r

[Excerpts] Tarija, 17 Feb (PRESENCIA) —Through the Bolivian-Soviet astronomical observatory in Tarija, Bolivia is actively participating in the "Phobos" international program designed to launch two spacecraft to Mars and its moons. This important scientific event is expected to take place in July. [passage omitted]

The Tarija observatory, located in Santa Ana, 17 km from Tarija, is preparing a photographic catalogue of the stars visible around Mars and conducting chiefly astrometrical tasks. Astrophysics studies of Mars and its moons "Phobos" and "Deimos" are also under way. (The program is called "Phobos" because most of the scientific observation will be devoted to this moon of Mars.)

Bolivia will play an important role in the program because the observatory will provide accurate information on the position of the celestial bodies that will be under study. The Tarija observatory is the only one in the Southern Hemisphere that will participate in the "Phobos" project.

A scientific-technical team comprising Soviet and Bolivian technicians, including geodesic astronomer Rodolfo Zalles Barrera, is working at the Tarija Observatory. Zalles Barrera, who graduated in the Soviet Union, is the top Bolivian astronomer, and he is currently taking a postgraduate course in astronomy at the main observatory of the Academy of Sciences in Pulkolvo, Leningrad. [passage omitted]

Bolivia joined the international astronomy research community in 1983, when the Tarija observatory made its first observations. [passage omitted]

Chile

Opposition Creates 'Command Against Fraud'

PY232234 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The opposition again demonstrated its duplicity to the Chilean people by creating in the last few hours the self-styled Command Against Fraud [Comando Contra el Fraude]. This Command rejects the plebiscite even before the date of the plebiscite is announced.

The Command, which is headed by Fabiola Letelier and Communist Party member Fanny Pollarolo, announced that it will not only cooperate with the social mobilization plan but also implement it by staging protests and [words indistinct] beginning 8 March.

Some of the political groups making up this Command are part of the opposition sector that is ready to support the Constitution and take part in the plebiscite. In an illogical attitude, however, these groups support a policy of division which is sponsored by the Communists and other extremist groups who are preventing the institutional process from succeeding in the country.

The groups comprising the Command, therefore, propose two contradictory positions that increase the doubts and uneasiness of those who want to create a law-abiding opposition within the framework of equanimity. Several opposition leaders have already said that if the yes vote wins at the plebiscite, as is predicted, they will accept the people's decision.

Guillermo Arenas, vice president of the Luengo-led radicalist faction, said the creation of more opposition commands will not divide the opposition. He added, however, that it is natural that those who support the no vote in the plebiscite, as well as the Constitution, cannot accept the divisive proposal of the Communists allied to other politicians who clearly follow the Marxist doctrine.

Ignacio Lano, another member of the Command, explicitly rejected the Constitution which was approved by the majority of the Chilean people. Rene Aucatan, who also attended the news conference (at which the Command was launched), clearly said that social mobilization, despite its tragic effects, will begin on 8 March with the events promoted by the leftist women's organizations.

Fanny Pollarolo; Fabiola Letelier, who presided over the press conference; and Esteban Silva criticized President Pinochet and his administration. Eduardo Barriga; Felipe Chiang; Berta Echegoguillen; journalist (Irene Gaes); Tomas Moullien; Lautaro Ojeda, retired; Estela Ortiz; Juan Manuel Parra; Pamela Pereira; Osvaldo Pozio, Salvador Allende's former private secretary; Carmen Gloria Quintana, who lives in Canada; Raul Reyes Zuzarte; Agueda Saenz; and poets Andres Zabella and Raul Zurita also signed the document creating the Command which, with its clear divisive position, will further split the Chilean opposition.

Powerlines Bombed; Santiago Area Affected

PY232101 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Two separate bombings early this morning caused a drop in power in the metropolitan region and cut electric power in the area south of Temuco.

Concerning these incidents, the National Electric Power, Inc., (ENDESA) enterprise has released the following communique:

Two ENDESA powerlines were the target of bombings early Tuesday morning.

At 0044 an electrical tower of the Alto Jaguel-Cerro Navia 220-kilowatt powerline was knocked down but the electric power supply in the metropolitan area was not cut.

At 0317 an electrical tower of the Duquco-Temuco 154-kilowatt powerline was knocked down, affecting the electric power supply south of Temuco.

ENDESA's official communique concludes by stating that the required emergency measures were taken to minimize the rationing of electric power following the bombings.

Note to Spain Reiterates Extradition Request

PY231824 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Report from the Foreign Ministry by reporter Maria Veronica Munoz]

[Text] A few minutes ago the Foreign Ministry released a communique which states that yesterday, the Chilean Embassy in Madrid delivered to the Spanish Foreign Ministry another note reiterating an extradition request for Mr Cesar Bunster. The document also requests official information concerning an announcement that Bunster is not on Spanish territory.

A few days ago the Spanish ambassador in Chile said that Cesar Bunster is not in Spain.

Nevertheless, in yesterday's note Chile reiterated that Spain must officially respond to the extradition request.

Colombia

DEA Role in Drug Operations Questioned

PA240300 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] As we reported yesterday, Francisco Bernal, director of the drug control section of the Attorney General's Office, has been accused by the judge of the 26th Penal District of violating the nation's sovereignty because he carried out raids and drug control operations with DEA agents in various local cities. Today we have new information on the case, which is being investigated internally by the Attorney General's Office.

The participation of DEA agents in operations carried out in Colombia under the command of Francisco Bernal Castillo, chief of the National Drug Department of the Attorney General's Office, was revealed in the wake of three search operations carried out in December 1986, in which several people were arrested and later released. According to Attorney General's Office agents who participated in the operations, a man named Rafael Aguirre, who drove a U.S. Embassy station wagon, always accompanied Bernal Castillo on the operations. The agents stated under oath that the DEA official was armed and carried out searches along with Bernal, leaving the agents

on guard outside. He took notes and thoroughly reviewed the telephone and address books of the people arrested, asking them questions. Yesterday Bernal Castillo went to the Attorney General's Office to give explanations. He was advised to take leave and then to present his resignation. He left the country today, apparently for the United States.

For over a year officials dismissed by Bernal have made charges against him in the various media. However, his links to the DEA were revealed only yesterday as a result of the investigations being carried out by the Attorney General's Office at the request of a judge. Meanwhile, an answer is pending from the Foreign Ministry as to whether any international agreement exists that would permit the participation of DEA agents in Colombian drug operations.

British Exercises Near Falklands 'Deplored'

PA240005 Paris AFP in Spanish 1615 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Bogota, 22 Feb (AFP)—The Colombian Government today deplored Great Britain's decision to hold a naval exercise near the Malvinas Islands between 7 and 31 March.

A Foreign Ministry bulletin delivered to AFP expresses "surprise and concern" over the report about the exercise and notes that "it may cause a heightening of tensions in the area."

"The exercise contradicts the resolutions adopted by the United Nations during its 41st and 42d period of sessions urging all states to consider the South Atlantic a region of peace and cooperation," Colombia stresses.

It reiterates its support for a peaceful settlement of controversies.

"Colombia hopes that the controversy between Great Britain and Ireland [as received] and the Republic of Argentina will be settled through political means," the Foreign Ministry bulletin stresses.

"Colombia deplores the United Kingdom's decision because it may cause an increase in tensions in the area," the bulletin said.

FARC Attacks Puerto Limon; Kills 4 Policemen

PA232010 [Editorial report] Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1215 GMT on 19 February broadcasts a 6-minute report by reporter Alfonso Meneses from Granada City on an attack on Puerto Limon.

Meneses says that at 0100 on 19 February, one police corporal and three policemen were killed in an armed attack carried out by the FARC 27th Front in Fuente de Oro municipality. Meneses cites an Army spokesman who told him the FARC rebels mined the Granada-Puerto Lleras-Puerto Limon roads.

The reporter says there are no other casualties besides the police casualties and that it does not appear that communication between Puerto Limon and the rest of the department has been restored.

Peru

MRTA Sets Off 6 Explosive Charges in Lima

PA231250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1748 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Lima, 22 Feb (AFP)—About six explosive charges were detonated in different businesses in Lima last night by Tupac Amaru guerrillas, in attacks authorities today attributed to a campaign against the Day of Fraternity that the ruling APRA party is commemorating.

There was considerable property damage, but no casualties, according to the police, which found pamphlets of the MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement) at the sites attacked.

The first target was a construction company in Surquillo District. The building's windows were blown out.

Explosiions followed at the warehouses of Perulac, a branch of the Swiss transnational company Nestle. There was only minor damage.

Police said the attack could have had more serious consequences, since some 60 people had just left the building shortly before the attack.

Simultaneously, explosions occurred near the Scala commercial center (San Miguel), a liquor storehouse (Brena), and at two factories.

At the sites of attack the Tupac Amaru guerrillas left MRTA leaflets with the inscription "Northeastern Military Campaign."

The police, which increased security measures throughout the country starting on Thursday, on the eve of the ruling party's rally in Lima, said the attacks had become more frequent because today is the anniversary of the birth of APRA founder Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, who died in 1979.

At the same time, in Huaraz, capital of Ancash Department, 300 km northeast of Lima, an explosive charge exploded near the parade ground, where a rally was being held to mark the Day of Fraternity. There were no casualties.

Similar attacks, with no serious consequences, had taken place on Saturday night in the cities of Trujillo and Chiclayo, north of Lima, where individual political demonstrations had taken place.

The authorities also reported that they had successfully carried out a land and air operation, with over 1,000 troops participating, against members of the Shining Path, Tupac Amaru, and drug traffickers entrenched in Alto Huallaga, San Martin Department.

It was learned from sources close to the political-military command at Tarapoto that the offensive encompassed some 110 km between the Punta Arenas Bridge and Puerto Pisana, an area in which civilian traffic was prohibited. The operation actually involved dozens of towns in Tocache, Uchiza, and Sion.

Reports that have not been officially confirmed, but have been picked up by some newspapers in Lima, indicated there had been confrontations resulting in some 25 dead and many injured among the rebels. However, no military authority has confirmed this.

Uruguay

Soviet Delegation Begins Talks in Montevideo

PY231630 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] One of the main agenda items of the talks that a Soviet and Uruguayan delegation began this morning refers to port services. The talks, which are being held at the Foreign Ministry building, were opened by Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias. Another major agenda item is the effort to reach a commercial accord. As is known, any accord will have to be confirmed by President Julio Sanguinetti and his Soviet counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, during a visit the former will pay to Moscow. The Soviet delegation is headed by Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister (Oleg Korunov), while the Uruguayan delegation is led by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Adolfo Castells Mendivil.

Briefs

1987 Export Figures

Montevideo, 21 Feb (EFE)—The International Trade Control Division of the Bank of the Republic has reported that Uruguay's exports amounted to $1,191,084,000 worth of goods in 1987, representing a 9.5-percent increase over exports in 1986. While traditional exports decreased 1.3 percent in 1987, nontraditional exports went up 15.8 percent. [Excerpt] *[Madrid EFE in Spanish 0339 GMT 22 Feb 88 PY]*

Central Bank Foreign Reserves

The Central Bank has reported that its foreign reserves at the end of 1987 stood at $865 million, representing an increase of $44.6 million over its position at the end of 1986. On the other hand, the Bank of the Republic reported reserves losses of $1.6 million through the first 11 months of 1987. [Summary] *[Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 13 Feb 88 p 2 PY]*